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GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 27 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Mr. William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, on 24 September 1996 at the General Assembly.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 9.

(Signed) KIM Hyong U
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the President of the United States of America in the general debate on 24 September 1996

1. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea resolutely rejects the allegations of Mr. Clinton, President of the United States, about the "provocative actions" by the DPRK in his remarks on 24 September 1996 at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly as an illogical argument of American big-power style.

2. The history of the past half century has proved eloquently that it is none other than the United States that is resorting to provocations which constantly threaten peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

3. In 1968, a United States-armed spy ship, the Pueblo, intruded deep into our territorial waters and was captured by the Korean People's Army. In 1969, a United States spy plane, the EC-121, violated our territorial airspace and was shot down by our interceptor. In 1994 a United States helicopter intruded deep into our area across the military demarcation line and was also downed by our soldiers. Every day, the United States is conducting aerial espionage against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

4. If these are not provocative actions, are they good deeds of angels of peace?

5. The United States, whenever it deems it necessary, talks a lot about observance of the Armistice Agreement, which has been destroyed completely and turned into a mere scrap of paper.

6. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to ask the conscience of the world: Is it not the self-serving logic of American style that the introduction by the United States of sophisticated armaments and nuclear weapons into south Korea and provocative military manoeuvres against the DPRK are for peace and security, while the DPRK's resistance against United States pressure and countermeasures to the provocations by the United States and south Korean puppets are threats to peace and security?

7. If the United States really desires peace and security on the Korean peninsula, it should stop all military provocations against the DPRK and respond positively to our proposal to establish a new peace mechanism without delay.